

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1908

To authorize the Under Secretary of Technology of the Department of Commerce to award grants to establish up to eight Nanoscience to Commercialization Institutes throughout the United States to develop commercial applications for nanotechnology.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 21, 2005

Mr. SMITH (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To authorize the Under Secretary of Technology of the Department of Commerce to award grants to establish up to eight Nanoscience to Commercialization Institutes throughout the United States to develop commercial applications for nanotechnology.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Nanoscience to Com-
5 mercialization Institutes Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. NANOSCIENCE TO COMMERCIALIZATION INSTI-**
2 **TUTES.**

3 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of
5 Technology of the Department of Commerce (re-
6 ferred to in this Act as the “Under Secretary”) is
7 authorized to award grants to eligible entities to es-
8 tablish up to 8 Nanoscience to Commercialization
9 Institutes (referred to in this Act as “Institutes”)
10 throughout the United States to assist in the com-
11 mercialization of nanotechnology.

12 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Under Secretary
13 shall not award a grant under this section in an
14 amount which exceeds \$1,500,000 for any year of
15 the grant period.

16 (3) DURATION.—The Under Secretary shall
17 award grants under this section for a period not to
18 exceed 3 years.

19 (4) LOCATION.—The Under Secretary shall en-
20 sure that each Institute is located at either a public
21 university or Federal laboratory.

22 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded pursuant to
24 subsection (a) shall be used to establish at least 1
25 Institute in each of the following areas of
26 nanotechnology or microtechnology:

1 (A) Energy, including clean coal
2 liquification, gasification, and filtration, nuclear
3 energy, biofuels, or fuel processing.

4 (B) Printable electronics, including elec-
5 tronic displays.

6 (C) Medical, including diagnostics, imag-
7 ing, or medical devices.

8 (D) Transportation, including materials or
9 coatings.

10 (E) Textiles, including heat resistance, wa-
11 terproofing, insulation, or fireproofing.

12 (F) Agriculture.

13 (2) LIMITATION.—Not more than 20 percent of
14 each grant award may be used for administrative ex-
15 penses or other overhead costs.

16 (3) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—For-profit
17 manufacturing companies conducting research and
18 development in micro- and nanotechnologies shall
19 provide—

20 (A) not less than 20 percent of the funding
21 for each Institute; and

22 (B) in addition to the funding under sub-
23 paragraph (A), in-kind contributions equal to
24 not less than 15 percent of the operating costs
25 of the Institute.

1 (c) APPLICATION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each entity desiring a grant
3 under this section shall submit an application to the
4 Under Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
5 containing such information as the Under Secretary
6 may reasonably require.

7 (2) COLLABORATION.—The application sub-
8 mitted under paragraph (1) shall include a business
9 plan that—

10 (A) describes how each grant recipient will
11 collaborate with the private sector entities that
12 will contribute expertise and matching funds;
13 and

14 (B) includes goals for the first year of the
15 grant period.

16 (3) INELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Any institution of
17 higher education that has a federally funded
18 nanotechnology center or is the primary lead of a
19 nanotechnology center is not eligible for a grant
20 under this section.

21 (4) PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE.—The Under
22 Secretary shall establish a peer review committee,
23 consisting of representatives from the micro- and
24 nanotechnology industry and early stage venture

1 capital firms, to review the goals and progress made
2 by each Institute during the grant period.

3 (5) RENEWAL OF GRANTS.—

4 (A) Each entity that receives an initial 1-
5 year grant under this section shall, as a condi-
6 tion of continued grant funding, submit a re-
7 port, not later than 1 year after the beginning
8 of the grant period and annually for the next 2
9 years, to the peer review committee established
10 under paragraph (4).

11 (B) The report submitted under subpara-
12 graph (A) shall describe the Institute's accom-
13 plishments during the preceding year and the
14 Institute's goals for the subsequent year.

15 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 There are authorized to be appropriated \$24,000,000
17 during the 3-year period beginning on the date of enact-
18 ment of this Act to carry out the provisions of this Act.

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